Rogers Backing of Plan For Sirhan Plea Denied

The State Department denied yesterday that Secretary of State William P. Rogers had approved a plan to let Sirhan Bishara Sirhan plead guilty to the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in exchange for assurances he would not be executed.

Asked to comment on the report, which appeared in a syndicated column by Frank Mankiewicz and Tom Braden in yesterday's editions of The Washington Post, Department spokesman Carl Bartch said:

"I can deny that. That is not correct. When an inquiry was put to the Secretary, he replied he did not think it was appropriate for him to discuss this matter. This matter was entirely outside his area of responsibility and it was entirely up to Younger [Los Angeles District Attorney Evelle Younger] to decide what to do."